

Message

From: Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/13/2020 7:45:33 PM
To: Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Community Needs in Response to COVID-19

It couldn't hurt plus there have been various pushes for years from NEPA to now regarding paying more attention to EJ issues. Should we discuss with Aaron and Jesse along with a more comprehensive look at all of our remedial sites for candidates? Candidates due to Corbin this Wed.

Sandy

Sandy Stavnes, Deputy
Superfund and Emergency Management Division
US EPA, Region 8
303-312-6117

From: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Community Needs in Response to COVID-19

Wow...maybe the VB-I70 getting this type of grant could be the perfect impetus for shifting their focus from the SF CAG to a more EJ focused group???

From: Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Community Needs in Response to COVID-19
Importance: High

Interestingly the email we just received from Jen has a lot of references to COVID.

Sandy

Sandy Stavnes, Deputy
Superfund and Emergency Management Division
US EPA, Region 8
303-312-6117

From: Costanzi, Frances <Costanzi.Frances@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>; Poetter, Joe <poetter.joe@epa.gov>; Guerra, Valeria <Guerra.Valeria@epa.gov>; Wharton, Steve <Wharton.Steve@epa.gov>; Christensen, Stanley <Christensen.Stanley@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Rothery, Deirdre <Rothery.Deirdre@epa.gov>; Williams, Laura <williams.laura@epa.gov>; Atencio, Kathie <Atencio.Kathie@epa.gov>; Ketellapper, Victor <Ketellapper.Victor@epa.gov>; Stites, Rob <Stites.Rob@epa.gov>; Progett, Christina <Progett.Christina@epa.gov>
Cc: Vallejos, Cinna <vallejos.cinna@epa.gov>; Hansen, Judy <Hansen.Judy@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Community Needs in Response to COVID-19

Importance: High

Hi all. I received this from Corbin a few minutes ago, so haven't had time to really think about it. Do any of you know of any eligible projects that meet the definition below? I'd like to forward to the OSCs, RPMs, SAMs and CICs and other staff that work with Superfund and collect any replies if you think it would be useful.

Please advise! Thanks!

Fran

From: Darling, Corbin <Darling.Corbin@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:16 PM

To: Belille, Jean <Belille.Jean@epa.gov>; Costanzi, Frances <Costanzi.Frances@epa.gov>; Farris, Laura <Farris.Laura@epa.gov>; Ketellapper, Victor <Ketellapper.Victor@epa.gov>; Latino, Steven <latino.steven@epa.gov>; Lin, Moye <Lin.Moye@epa.gov>; Matsumoto, Kimi <Matsumoto.Kimi@epa.gov>; Olson, Kyle <Olson.Kyle@epa.gov>; Ott, Toney <Ott.Toney@epa.gov>; Piantanida, David <Piantanida.David@epa.gov>; Reichmuth, Michelle <Reichmuth.Michelle@epa.gov>; Sanchez, Brian <sanchez.brian@epa.gov>; Singh, Amrita <singh.amrita@epa.gov>; Wardell, Christopher <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>; Wenstrom, Michael <Wenstrom.Michael@epa.gov>; Wharton, Steve <Wharton.Steve@epa.gov>

Cc: Sopkin, Gregory <sopkin.gregory@epa.gov>; Bohan, Suzanne <bohan.suzanne@epa.gov>; Buhl, Rick <Buhl.Rick@epa.gov>; Daly, Carl <Daly.Carl@epa.gov>; Davis, Patrick <davis.patrick@epa.gov>; O'Connor, Darcy <oconnor.darcy@epa.gov>; Schefski, Kenneth <Schefski.Kenneth@epa.gov>; Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Smith, Mark A. <Smith.MarkA@epa.gov>; Spence, Sandra <Spence.Sandra@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Varilek, Kimberly <Varilek.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Wood, Melaniel <Wood.Melaniel@epa.gov>

Subject: Community Needs in Response to COVID-19

Importance: High

EJ Action Team,

Please see the note below from OEJ regarding a new EJ grant program for states that is currently in development. The Administrator wants to get it out quickly with an added area of emphasis on **state-led projects addressing the needs of EJ communities responding to the COVID-19 crisis** (it's becoming increasingly clear that COVID-19 is disproportionality impacting people in EJ communities). OEJ is soliciting **ideas and examples of possibly eligible projects** and especially ideas that are in response to needs that we are hearing from communities. Note that ideas should have a connection to one or more environmental statutes.

Should you have any thoughts on this, please provide them to me by noon this Wednesday, April 15th so that I can compile them and provide to OEJ by their deadline of COB Wednesday. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to talk through any ideas you might have.

Corbin

Corbin Darling

Environmental Justice Coordinator

Office of the Regional Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8 (8ORA-IO)

1595 Wynkoop, Denver, CO 80202

303 312-6426

From: Burney, Jacob <Burney.Jacob@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:49 AM
To: Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>; EJ Coordinators <EJ_Coordinators@epa.gov>; EJ Program Managers <EJ_Program_Managers@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: planning for SEJCA announcement
Importance: High

Greetings All,

To follow up on Matthew's message, we are working to make our State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement (SEJCA) program dollars available for direct support of COVID-19 related work in EJ communities. **Please see the attached document** for important excerpts from the DRAFT SEJCA opportunity. **(Do NOT share outside the EJ program)**

While we know that COVID-19 is disproportionality impacting people in EJ communities, for our program to be able to fund covid projects directly, we need that environmental link through one or more of our environmental statutes. Since covid is a respiratory disease, perhaps the CAA and/or TSCA are the most promising statutes. Our program has funded many EJ grants with a focus on asthma/air pollution and the direct link between the two. We also might consider having a geographic focus on covid hotspots if the environmental link isn't strong.

However, we need your help to brainstorm other ideas and examples of possibly eligible projects. Feel free to suggest anything that pops into your mind. Also, please touch base with your air, water, brownfields, and other media programs as they might be receiving direct inquiries and request from the public about how EPA can help the covid response.

This will be a high profile grant opportunity. As we know, States are doing everything they can to address the crisis. We can't overstate the importance of our program being able to provide direct funds to covid-work in EJ communities, especially when its apparent that the disease is ravaging EJ communities and vulnerable populations.

Time is of the essence. We want to get the opportunity out as soon as possible, now, when the funds are most needed by our communities. Please provide your ideas and comments to me by **COB on Wednesday, 4/15.**

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks so much!

Regards,
Jacob

Jacob J. Burney | EJ Grants Program Manager | Office of Environmental Justice | Tel:202.564.2907 | US EPA 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (2202A) Washington, DC 20460 |

Check out some of the great work communities have done with EJ grant funding in this interactive [EJ Grants and Communities Story Map!](#)

For Environmental Justice grant programs, funding opportunities, and assistance information:
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources>

To receive information on environmental justice funding opportunities, events and webinars, sign up for the [EJ Listserv](#)

From: Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:11 PM
To: EJ Coordinators <EJ_Coordinators@epa.gov>; EJ Program Managers <EJ_Program_Managers@epa.gov>
Subject: planning for SEJCA announcement

All

We have been given the green light to push out the SEJCA competition and the Administrator wants to get it out quickly with an added area of emphasis on state-led projects addressing the needs of EJ communities responding to the COVID-19 crisis. We are likely to be the first purposed grant from EPA with such an emphasis and need to frame out what sorts of activities this could look like in a grant project framework related to EPA's statutory authorities.

If you have any ideas or have heard from our state or other governmental partners on the sorts of needs they are identifying to help respond to EJ community needs, or just ideas directly from communities on needs they are identifying, please let me, Sheila or Jacob know. If you would like to discuss or need more information, please get in touch with Jacob.

Thanks everyone for your help on this.

Best,

Matthew

Matthew Tejada
Director - Office of Environmental Justice
Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-8047

Stay in the know about all things EJ at EPA by subscribing to our email listserv [here](#).